Ames Historical Society
AMES • IOWA

Newsletter to Members
2011 Winter....Issue #1/4
30th Anniversary 1980-2010

The mission of the Ames Historical Society is to preserve local history and illuminate its stories.

Lisa Ossian's book, Home Fronts of Iowa, 1939-1945 will be available at the program.

Ames Historical Society Board:
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Bob Bourne, Matthew Donovan, Carol Phillips, Mike Quinn, Meg Speer, Rollie Struss, Willie Struss, Kathy Svec, Neal Tarman
The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at City Hall at 6:45pm. Members welcome!

Administrator Alan Spohnheimer
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Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs, exhibitions and operation of an archive and historic site.

Headqtrs: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010
Open Wed-Fri, 1-5pm
Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-232- 2148
E-mail: mail@ameshistoricalsociety.org
Website: www.AmesHistoricalSociety.org

The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Open April 1 through October 31.

Annual Special Meeting for Members: featuring *Home Fronts of Iowa – 1940-45*

You are invited to attend the Society's Annual Meeting of the membership on **Sat. March 5, 10am**, at the Ames Public Library's Farwell T. Brown Auditorium, 515 Douglas Avenue in Ames.

Following a short business meeting, Lisa Ossian, associate professor of history, Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny will present her program, **The Home Fronts of Iowa, 1940-45**.

During World War II, the home front contributions of Iowans and Americans divided into four historical fronts:

- the farm front,
- the production front,
- the community front,
- and the kitchen front.

Food for Freedom directed American farmers in the all-out production needed for the war effort and relief for our Allies. Iowa farmers lead the nation in crop and livestock production.

Iowa's small businesses and industries added to the "Arsenal of Democracy" by filling many military sub-contract orders. The two newly constructed ordnance plants in Burlington and Ankeny produced thousands of bombs and millions of machine gun bullets. Iowa's small towns and cities matched and exceeded records in the eight War Bond Drives as well as the numerous scrap drives for iron, paper, rubber and tin. Iowa's women met the rationing and production requirements demanded from the federal government in all home kitchens.

Lisa Ossian earned her Master's degree in women's studies at Eastern Michigan University and her doctorate at Iowa State University in agricultural history and rural studies. In addition to research on Iowa during the early Depression era and WWII home front years, she also did a national survey of children's experiences during WWII. She has written a book, *The Home Fronts of Iowa, 1939-1945* that will be available at the program. Refreshments will be served.

Funded by Humanities Iowa, National Endowment for the Humanities, Iowa Community Cultural Grant Program, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

Two Ames entities were involved in war production. The coveted Army-Navy "E" award was presented on March 29, 1944 to the Collegiate Manufacturing Co., Ames, for their "high achievement" in the production of raincoats for the armed forces. A second "E Flag" was presented to Iowa State for participation in uranium research for the Manhattan Project.

The Story and History of Daley Park in west Ames

By Mary G. (Meg) Speer, Society Board member

In the early 1990's, Ames was growing rapidly on the west side and in 1994, it was determined that a park should be planned to serve residents in that area. Three fortuitous events made this park possible.

Hunziker & Furman Corporation committed to selling the City six acres of land at half of the appraised value and in addition, donated another four acres for the proposed park. Then, the City was awarded a $150,000 State of Iowa REAP* Grant to purchase the land and begin development of a park.

The third event was that Helen Rae Daley Smith, then living in Arizona, donated $100,000 for the park, with the understanding that the park would be named for her parents Raymond and Gertrude Daley and her brothers Merle, Max and Bob, all deceased.

Raymond built homes and he and Gertrude lived their whole lives in Ames. Merle, Max and Bob also lived in Ames for most of their lives. Helen also donated $5,000 to the City, stipulating that the interest be used to maintain and repair the Park's recreational structures.

About Helen Rae Daley Smith

Helen was born September 27, 1922 in Ames to Ray and Gertrude Daley and grew up at 925 Clark Avenue.

She was married for over 40 years to Clyde B. Smith. Clyde was born in Southern Iowa and worked in the coal mines until 1936, when at age 16 he hitchhiked to Ames and got a job with grocery pioneer, Keith Rushing. Ames residents may remember Rushing's stores, first on Main Street and later north of Lincoln Way and east of Kellogg Avenue.

After World War II service, Clyde and Helen returned to Ames to start grocery stores in Roland (below), Marshalltown (below, "Smitty's") and Cedar Rapids.

Fifty years ago the couple moved to Arizona and started a multi-million dollar grocery chain called Smitty's Big Town, a retailing concept that was later copied by Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart Inc., among others. Smitty's catered to families and supported hundreds of local charities in the towns where stores were located. This past November, Clyde Smith, now 91, was in Marshalltown to sign his biography, *Pioneering the Superstore: A Retail Revolution*. **

Helen was an active participant in Smitty's Big Town Stores, assisting and advising in many decisions and acting as hostess for the many events they sponsored, including golf tournaments at their estate. She became known as a philanthropist, benefactress and independent investor who touched many people with her generosity in Iowa, Arizona and Pennsylvania. Her granddaughter remembers visiting Story City when Helen's mother, Gertrude, was a resident of Bethany Manor, another recipient of Helen's many gifts.

Helen had an adventurous side and after retiring in 1981, was the first woman to become a NASCAR team owner and set a precedent as the first woman allowed in pit row. She traveled throughout the country pulling her cars, stopping once in Ames for family to view them.

Helen and Clyde had three daughters: Sandy Sojka and husband, Gary of Middleburg, PA: Linda Barkdoll and husband, Phillip of Phoenix, AZ and Vinton, IA; and Karen Gish and husband, Dale of Dolores, CO. She built a mansion for herself in Vinton, Iowa next to the Barkdolls. Sadly, Karen and Dale Gish were killed in Colorado when their motorcycle was struck by an out-of-control van.

Helen and Clyde divorced in 1980 and he moved to Texas. Helen later married but parted from a retired military officer, Earl Morgan.

About Daley Park & Greenbelt

Daley Park & Greenbelt was dedicated September 7, 1996. Helen cut the ribbon with then-Mayor Larry Curtis. Among the many attending were City Council members Ted Tedesco and Herman Quirmbach, City Manager Steve Schainker and County Supervisor Fred Mathison.

At the dedication - L to R: Helen's daughters, Karen & Linda, Helen, Mayor Larry Curtiss, daughter Sandy.

Neighbors of the existing College Creek subdivision were actively involved in the process of developing the

park, especially in the selection of play equipment. Three Eagle Scout projects were also incorporated into the park design – a wetlands planting area adjacent to College Creek, construction of a picnic table and mini-shelter and grill and bench installation.

The Park is in the Bentwood subdivision just south of Lincoln Way on the western edge of Ames at 340 Wilder Blvd. It is 10 acres and features lighting throughout, a walking trail, large shelter house accommodating 100 persons, grills, playground equipment, pedestrian bridge and a wetland prairie area. The entire park is handicapped accessible with water, sewer and electrical service.

A newspaper article read: "Roller bladers, joggers and bikers have yet another park in Ames to exercise in and enjoy the beauty of nature."

Daryle and Joyce Vegge have lived in the area since 1978. When they moved there, they were told their children would be bussed to school and that a park was in the plan - that they assumed would be in the near future. To quote Joyce, "It was not built soon enough for our children to enjoy, but we are grateful for the opportunities to take our granddaughters there when they visit. The Park is very well used."

The donation for the park was not Helen's first gift to the City of Ames. In 1992 Helen donated $6,000 to buy art for the Ames City Hall and in 1993 she gave another $5,000 to the City's Public Art Commission to purchase art for the City Hall with the stipulation that all the artists be Ames High School graduates. The artworks were also in memory of her parents and brothers.

In 1993 Helen was named Ames High School's Favorite Alum. On that occasion, her daughter Linda spoke for her, saying "Helen's belief that she has truly been blessed has been one reason she has been so successful in her life. She has always remembered her roots in Ames and also realized what an impact growing up in such a fine community had in her life. She would urge all of you to make some contribution to society, your community -- not only momentarily but also in sharing the many God given talents bestowed on us. Each individual can and does make a difference."

Helen died unexpectedly on Thursday, March 9, 2006 while writing letters at her desk in her home in Biltmore Estates, Phoenix. Memorial services were held in Scottsdale, AZ and Adams Funeral Home in Ames. She is buried in the Ames Municipal Cemetery.

We are grateful to Helen's granddaughter, Dee Ann Daley Weiss of Ames for sharing her scrapbooks.

* Resource Enhancement and Protection
** Copy at the Ames Public Library

We extend our sincere thanks to all our 2010 members.
Your support through memberships provides essential funding - we couldn't do it without you!

PATRON LEVEL
Louise McCormick

BENEFACTOR LEVEL
Lawlor Farms Inc.
Red & Marilyn Stenberg

PARTNER LEVEL
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Pilar Garcia
Janet & Erv Klaas
Dorothy & Thomas McGee
Carol Phillips
Rollie & Willie Struss
Katherine Svec

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J. Paul Clark
Jeanine Cole
Roger & Bette Coulson
Archie Greene
Lee & Gayle Huey
Arthur Klein
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Klaus Ruedenberg
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Lois & Bob Vohs
Sharon & Donald Wirth

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Robert Bourne
Shelly & Mort Boyd
Joyce & Rod Brink
Robert & Anne Buck
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Doris Plagge Burton
Nancy Clark
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Stewart Burger
Janice Burkhart
Keith N. Bystrom
Bonny & Ray Callahan
Donna Carr
Wayne & Judy Casperson
Mary Jane Clithero
Anne Clubine
Phyllis Crouse
David Digby & Joyce Knol – Digby
Dee Dreeszen
Jim Dresser
Gloria & Dennis Erickson
Robert & Mary Fitz
Paul Garner
David & Hanna Gradwohl
James Graham
Helen Gunderson
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Maxine Hildebrand
John & Laani Hill
Roy & Pat Hougen
Nick Howell
Patricia Hulsey
Margaret Elbert & Jeff Benson
Annette Jensen
Bill Jepsen
Dennis & Betty Keeney
Leo Lawlor
Roger & Pauline Lawrence
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Lewis
Roger S. Litchfield
Duane & Leonore Mangold
Steve McDonald
Barbara H. Mosier
Joy Munn
Neta Snook Questers
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FC & Fern Parrish
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Mark Widrlechner & Sherry Dragula
Kent & Linda Woodworth

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Neala & Chuck Benson
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George & Agatha Burnet
Suzanne & Jerry Caswell
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George & Susan Christensen
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Ellen & Keith Landon
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Jim Menzel
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Bonnie Kalton Norman
Jim & Frankee Oleson
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Martha & Jorgen Rasmussen
Charlie & Phyllis Ricketts
Bob & Jo Rod
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Wesley & Georgene Shank
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Leland & Jeanette Smithson
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Marna Stevens
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David & Donna Wilder
Don & Kay Zytowski

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Elaine Bath
John Bath
Don Beitz
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Arlin Branhagen
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Bob Cody
Kris Corbin
Sue R. Crull
Lucille De Fore
Sue Dekkers
Mrs. Louise B. Dengler
Joyce A. Doolittle
Dennis Dubberke
Robert Egemo
Margot Eness
Steven P. Erickson
Audrey Lynn Fawcett
Katherine Fisher
Lucy Futrell
Mike Gammon
Tim Garner
Carlyle J. Gauger
Beverly Giebelstein Larson
Ruth Grabau
Gary Groat
Dale Grosvenor
Margaret Gurau
Gary Hall
Jan Halverson
Colleen Hamilton
Howard Hammond
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Larry Hansen
Maxine Harms
Phyllis Harris
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Marjorie Hartman
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Sally Haverly
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Collin Hobert
Eric Hoiberg
Patricia Ann Hopkins
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Etha Hutchcroft
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Linda Just
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Daniel Konrady
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Judy Sylwester Moser
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Mary Owings
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Douglas Provow
Cynthia Duff Questers
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Jerilyn Seitz
Mary Anne Silence
Betty Skrdla
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Don Sprague
Avis Steensland
Ben Svec
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Jean Svec
Lillian Svec
Mary Svec
Pete Svec
Tom Svec
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Margaret Ann Trail
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Deb Vance
Margaret Vance
Roger & Carol Volker
Sylvia Vust
Anita Wald-Tuttle
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Marlene Weisshaar
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Darla West
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Maureen Wilt
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Patricia Girton
David & Delora J. Hade
Tom McElherne
David A. Norris
Elizabeth Nygaard
Arch & Margie Oldehoeft
Steve & Randi Peters
Barbara Peterson
Pat Sparks
Hank Zaletel

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David Faux
Jonathan Jackson

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Thelma Miller
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Joyce Huisman
Roger & Norma Mather
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Diana S. Sarussi
John Skerritt
David M. Speer
James D. Speer
Tracey Stoll

We sincerely regret errors or omissions in our 2010 listing! Please let us know.

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Ames Historical Society! 1980 – 2010

Recognizing our 2010 Donors to Collections

Grateful for 2010 Artifacts

2010 was an outstanding year for collections growth. A record number of 156 unique donors gave archival materials and artifacts to enrich our holdings. We recognize and thank our 2010 donors to collections:

Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau, Jack Adams, Ames City Assessor, Ames City Clerk, Ames Police Dept., Ames Public Library, Ames Public Works Depy., Ames Tribune, Jim Amfahr, Ruth Anderson, Anon., Peggy Baer, Dale Balmer, Jan Ladman Bancroft, Pat Banitt, Shawn Bayouth, Terrence L. Bird, Betty Blagen, Del Blume, Mary Jane Bogdanovitch, Judy Boomgarden, Boone Co. Hist. Society, Bob Bourne, Pat Brown, Ruth Brown, Anne Buck, Jeff Bundy, Rick Burton,

Ken Cameron, Zijie Cao, Mary Martin Carr, Erik Charter, Lynn Christian, Donna Cipolloni, Paul Clark, Deanna Clem, Donna Green Clink, Collegiate Presb. Church, Kent Cooper, Sue Crull, Robert Deppe, Susan Donaldson, Tom Dooley, Lynell Dougherty, Dee Dreeszen, Robert J. Egemo, Marianne Elflein-Capito, Tom Emmerson, Gloria Erickson, Steve Erickson, Dorothy Ewing, Elaine Faas, Ed Fawkes.

Bob Fitz, Reiny K. Friedrich, Holly Fuchs, Linda Gershater, Roger M. Goetz, Gladys Goff, Andrew Gogerty, David Gradwohl, John , reving, Charles Griffith, jr., Fred Gulden, Richard Gulliver, Barbara Gwiasda, Susan Gwiasda.

Virginia & Chas. Hamme, Mary Farley Hanley, Virginia , arris, Phyllis Heffron, Dee Hegstrom, Shirley Held, Janet Herink, Collin Hobert, Rita Bappe Holmes, Betty Baudler Horras, Barbara Wallenbach , ouser, Mary Howard & Robert Bataille, Mike Howard, Erb Hunziker, John Jacobson, Kären Smedal John, Jerry Jones, Frank Judisch, Owen Kalsem.

Mary Kappelmann, , Mary Kearns, Kathy Kempen, Art Ketelsen, Mike King, Janet Klaas, Helen Koch, Dan Konrady, Robert Larson, Belinda S. Lawler, Conrad Lawlor, Rick Lem, Nancy Lewis, Jerry Litzel, Wendy Livy, Gene Love, Marie Martin Mancuso, Jerry Martin, Pauline Martin, Lynn , atson, Don McNeil, Kelly J. McPartland, Jim Menzel, Marsha Miller, Thelma Miller, Chuck Mischke, Galen Moore, Steven Munn, Francis E. Noble, Bonnie Norman, Susan North, Northcrest Community, Grant Olson.

Jim Prior, John Quam, Howard Randles, Marti Rasmussen, Susan Ridenour, Frances K. Roberg, Chuck Rutter, Dick Schory, Dorothy Shepard estate, Elizabeth Smith, Jeanette Smithson, Pat & Bob Sparks, Alan Spohnheimer, Linda Stole, Kathy Svec, Gaylord Swanson, John Sylwester, Neal Tarman, Betty Teague, Daryl Thomason, Triplett Companies, United Church of , hrist, Margaret Vance, Roger Volker, Sara Vouthilak, Donald K. Wall, Allyson Walter, An Fu Wang, Verna Weber, Harry Weiss, Dennis Wendell, Jane Wierson, David & Donna Wilder, Elsie Williams, Royce Winge, Mary & Harry Wurster, Hank Zaletel.

2011 Lectures Continue

The 2011 Ames Historical Society Lecture Series continues with its final two presentations.

Lectures are at Ames City Auditorium, 520 Sixth Street, Ames; a $2 donation is requested at the door.

Tuesday, March 29, 7pm
Jealous Husband, Mafia, Stranger, Wife: Who Killed Henry Chavis?
Presented by Nancy Bowers, Co-Admin. of Iowa Cold Cases

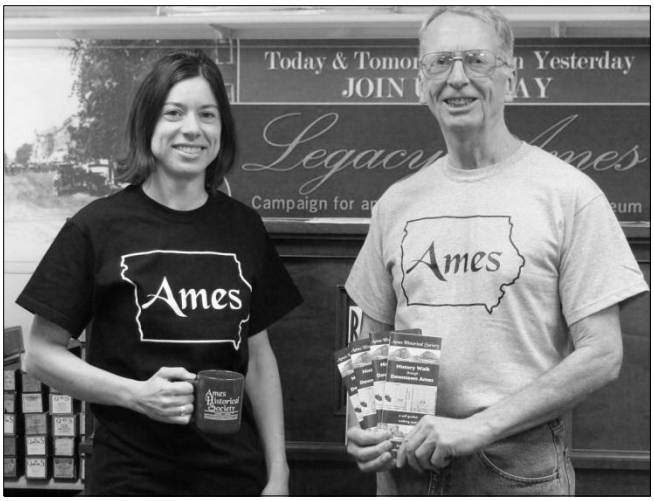
The most intriguing murder in Ames's history is also the one the Society gets the most inquiries about. The November 7, 1948 murder of Henry Chavis on what is now South Duff Avenue in Ames has never been solved. Though law enforcement was never able to say who was responsible, local residents had plenty of theories. The presenter will also touch on the Hollingsworth and other unsolved Ames murders.

Tuesday, April 26, 7pm
The McFarland Clinic Story: Making Medical History for 65 Years
Presented by Shelley Goecke and retired clinic physicians

At a time when many physicians offered services from their homes or small offices, G.E. McFarland, Sr., MD, introduced a model of care that at the time could only be labeled as revolutionary. In 1946, Dr. McFarland invited his two sons and two additional partners to join him in a group practice and planted the seed of what has grown into Iowa's largest physician-owned, multi-specialty clinic. Learn about its founding members, its history, and advances in medicine as it celebrates 65 years of service in central Iowa.

The Lecture Series is open to the public. Plan to join us!

Society News



New in the Gift Shop

Staff member, Sara Vouthilak and Facility Manager, Neal Tarman model and display new gift shop items:

- Ames, Iowa T-Shirts - $15
- Main Street Walking Tour Brochure - $1
- Ames Historical Society Mugs - $7.50

Shop hours are Wednesday through Friday, 1-5pm, or by appointment. Call 515-232-2148.

Wells Fargo Provides Grant

Wells Fargo Bank of Ames provided a $1,000 grant to assist the Society's Oral History Project, "Did You Know…?" Pictured are Margaret Vance, Society research assistant, Mark Linder, district branch manager and Clarissa Wing, branch manager.

Wanted: Missing Volumes

The Society's archive of reference materials includes yearbooks, phone books and directories of various kinds – but our collection has some missing years.
Desired are particular years of Ames High School and Iowa State yearbooks, and telephone and Polk directories. To inquire about the years we need, call 515-232-2148 or mail@ameshistoricalsociety.org. Other sorts of directories may be of interest to us, too.

President's Column

From Peggy Baer, Ames Historical Society President

I've been honored to be your President for the last year. The work accomplished by the other board members, the staff and the volunteers is truly amazing! Many people spend thousands of hours each year to accomplish the goals of the Society.

This organization has grown over the last ten years, and the table below summarizes this growth. As with any growing organization, we are not without our growing pains!

- **Balancing service delivery with financial responsibility:** We are the caretakers of Ames history and provide access to that history. Our staff does a fantastic job of serving our members and visitors but the service requests, presentations and questions outnumber the staff hours and the gulf is growing.

  We are now owners of the building at 416 Douglas, and have four part-time paid staff. It is the Board's responsibility to ensure that office space is fully rented, utilities and building expenses are paid and that sufficient operating funds exist to pay the staff. Our highest priority is increasing operating dollars to meet these needs.

  We have spirited discussions about instituting or raising fees and whether that could erode the "good-will" that you have for us. We will continue to work to maintain a proper balance between being a service organization and a business.

- **Storage Space:** The Society has a number of storage spots around town to house our growing collection of artifacts and archives. We rent space at 108 Fifth Street and the back of the Pantorium, and have a number of "free" spaces such as one at US Bank. We have been looking for over a year for a place to consolidate storage. Our goal is to have 2000-3000 square feet of space, in or near downtown, with higher ceilings, easy 24/7 access, and dry with conditioned air. We will continue to look at available space that is affordable.

- **Exhibition Space:** Those of you who have been at headquarters know that space for displays is extremely limited. Our goal is to move into the remainder of the first floor at 416 Douglas as soon as we can afford to give up the attractive rent we receive from the tenant. In the meantime, we have arranged for the use of the three gallery spaces at the Octagon for a show in the summer of 2012, celebrating Union Pacific's 150th Anniversary. Union Pacific owns the rail line through Ames, but until 1995 the railroad was the Chicago & North Western. We will be seeking a group interested in working on the show - please let me know if you would like to join us on this project.

Ames Historical Society: 2000 - 2010 Comparison

	2000	2010
Membership income and # of members	$7,275 176 members	$21,690 420+ members
Other income	$14,700 - (includes interest, shop sales, grants and other donations)	$48,704 - (includes grants, donations, memorials, shop & other re-sales, sale of services, endowment interest, tenant rent)
Total income	$21, 975 total, all sources No Building Fund No Operations Endowment	$70,394 total, all sources Building Fund $533,455 Operations Endow. $39,472
Expenses	$27,359	$62,635

Successful Events!

In December, the Society participated in the Octagon's Festival of Trees in the Main Street Cultural District and with Ames Public Library, sponsored "Ames Reads (and Remembers) Farwell Brown". Both events were well attended and enjoyed by local citizens. "Ames Reads Farwell" attracted over 100 people; "Trees" saw over 1100 through the doors during its run.

Above, L to R, Kathy Svec and Janet Klaas were the primary organizers of the "Ames Reads Farwell" program. At the Festival of Trees, the Society had two trees, one reminiscent of the pioneer era and the other an aluminum tree from the early 1960s that was the second such tree in Ames, complete with color wheel!

The entire "Ames Reads Farwell Brown" program can be viewed on the Society's website. Click the link on the homepage at www.ameshistoricalsociety.org.

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label for information about your membership. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, allowing us to continue to be a valued community resource. We thank you

Introductory - 1st year	**$10**	**Sustaining**	**$100**
Individual	**$25**	**Sustaining Plus**	**$101-500**
Family	**$40**	**Benefactor**	**$500**
Friend	**$50**	**Patron**	**$1,000**

Name _____

Address _____

Hoggatt on Film

Last fall, Iowa State student, Eric Waite, created a short documentary film about Hoggatt School and donated it to the Society. It features footage from a school class visit at Hoggatt as well as Curator Carol Phillips explaining Hoggatt School's history. It may be viewed on the Society's website. From the homepage, click on "Hoggatt School" on the left menu bar, then click on "View a video".

Ames Historical Society
PO Box 821
Ames, Iowa 50010

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